

CORONER'S JURY NOW INVESTIGATING Delving for the Facts In Belmont Mine Disaster

Large Crowd of Witnesses
and Spectators Are Present
---District Attorney Sanders
Assisting the Coroner.

From every indication and the manner in which evidence was taken at the opening session of the coroner's inquest over the remains of the victims of the Belmont mine disaster, it will be a long-drawn out affair. While several witnesses were called to the witness stand, as a matter of formal identity of a number of the dead, Roy King, mining engineer, and in charge of that work for the Belmont company, was the only one of any importance, with relation to the investigation of the coroner's jury.

Mr. King was on the stand for upwards of an hour during the morning, before adjournment was taken, being called at the opening of the afternoon's session, which convened at 1:30. District Attorney Sanders examined Mr. King at great length, regarding distances between different points in the mine and inside details of the working of the underground properties of the Belmont company.

The crowd that attended the forenoon session was small in comparison with that in the afternoon. Every available seat and all possible standing room was taken long before the court reconvened at 1:30. At 10:15 the coroner's jury, composed of Thomas Lindsay, Edward Brown, J. J. Finlay, William Denny, Robert Christian, William Hawke, A. A. Dewar, W. C. Schwab and W. R. McFadden, convened in the district court, the room being filled to its capacity with friends of the deceased miners. District Attorney Sanders aided the coroner in eliciting full information from the different witnesses called.

Owing to the absence of R. H. Dalzell, secretary of the Miners' union, identification of the dead bodies was postponed until later in the day.

Attorney Sanders suggested that himself, jurors or citizens be allowed to question any witness that might be called upon to testify. Mine Inspector Ryan was also called upon to aid in securing evidence.

A. Grant Miller of Reno, representing the next of kin to John Slemsek and John Mea, suggested that the jury be questioned as to relationship to the dead men.

Dalzell was called to the stand at 10:35 for the purpose of identifying the dead miners. He testified to a personal acquaintance with the dead men and also to the fact that he pinned identification tags on several of the corpses in the morgue. Those he positively identified were: George Dondero, Manuel Cordoza, Mike Scobally, Robert Frazier, Anthony Guilfoyle and John Mea. John Hannigan, brother of Michael, testified to identifying his brother by means of a watch and cut on the face.

C. J. Vieira had known Manuel Cordoza upwards of six years and identified him at the morgue.

F. M. Fitzgerald, superintendent of the Belmont mine, explained the system of checking men, now in vogue at the mine.

Chas. Ducheneau, auditor of the Belmont, explained further the system of keeping track of the men while working underground. He was instructed by the coroner to produce a record of the men who went to work on the ill-fated morning of the 23rd, which will probably be placed in the hands of the coroner's jury late this afternoon. It was admitted in the evidence that the following men were aged:

Name	Age
George Dondero, Genoa, Nev.	30
Mike Hannigan, Ireland	23
Manuel Cordoza, Azores	23
Max Slemsek, Germany	37
Robert Frazier, Scotland	29
Bozo Begovich, Serbia	21
F. F. Hermle, father-in-law of	21

George Dondero, testified to the age and birthplace of the dead miner.

W. Marsh, undertaker, testified to the bodies having been received at the morgue, identified and prepared for burial.

Jack Grant, shiftboss at the Belmont who was on shift the day of the accident, stated that Frank Burke notified him of the fire in the mine and that they two made a descent shortly after 6 o'clock.

Roy J. King, chief mining engineer for the Belmont, explained to the jury a map showing a sectional view between the Desert Queen and the Belmont shafts.

Judge Sanders spent almost an hour with Mr. King on the stand, questioning him as to a plan of that section of the mine in which the fire occurred. At frequent intervals figures representing distances from certain given points were added to the map on the request of Mr. Sanders.

Mr. King testified that no work had been performed in the winze at the bottom of the 1166-foot level in which the fire is alleged by some to have started, during at least the past four months.

The district attorney then took Mr. King to the surface, located hoist-house, store-room, change-room and other of the equipment of the mine.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session opened with Mr. King still on the stand under examination by Mr. Miller the Reno attorney.

Further facts relative to the location of air pipes, etc., in the mine were brought out by Mr. Miller and State Mine Inspector Ryan. A new map was also introduced during the afternoon examination of Mr. King.

Shiftboss Grant was recalled to the stand and stated that, to the best of his knowledge, which he knew of the fire on the day of the disaster. He told of himself and Burke searching through the mine from both the Belmont and Desert Queen shaft for the fire that caused the terrible smoke. The fire, he stated, was discovered near the 1166-foot station.

Burke, he stated, called Fitzgerald on the phone, but could not locate either Fitzgerald or Bradshaw. Burke advised the top man that the fire was located and asked for timbermen to come down the Desert Queen shaft. Bradshaw made the descent through Belmont shaft. Bradshaw, Burke and Grant tried to locate Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald later joined the party. Burke, according to this testimony, braved the danger of a section of the smoke infested mine with other men, against the better judgment of his fellow workmen.

The witness vividly portrayed the working of Fitzgerald, Bradshaw and a number of the miners, in their effort to locate the fire, which later proved so disastrous.

Burke made one trip to the top before losing his life. He made that trip for a roll of canvas.

Grant, while enroute to the shaft, maintains that he was half overcome by smoke, which was rolling through the drift. He was but a short distance from Hannigan, Murphy and several others at the time. He called to those two named for help but received no response. He later encountered Murphy, but was too far gone to be of any aid. Grant worked his way to the station which he found crowded with excited miners. He managed to get on the cage--between the legs of the other miners--who were wrestling for positions. Grant falls to remember whether the cage was rising or not. He finally reached terra firma com-

pleted knocked out. This was at 8:30 a. m. Bradshaw, Fitzgerald, Burke, David, Mea, McDonald and possibly others, according to Grant, were on the 1100-foot level when he left to go above for lamps.

NEW PANEL ORDERED.

CARSON CITY, Feb. 28.—In the L. L. Patrick case nine jurymen were secured yesterday, when the panel was exhausted and a new panel ordered forthwith. The defense has used four and the prosecution one of the peremptory challenges.

RAILROAD HEARING OPENS UP AT RENO

RENO, Nev., Feb. 28.—At the railroad hearing which opened yesterday 650 commodities are being discussed, the merchants giving testimony as to how the rates effect their business.

The night session was very tedious and dry. The same story was told by all, showing how impossible it is to compete owing to excessive charges. The Southern Pacific is represented by C. W. Durbrow of San Francisco; Attorney Charles Lowers of Reno; H. A. Jones, freight traffic manager; W. B. Rising, assistant freight agent, and Statistician Butler.

The cities of San Francisco and Sacramento are represented by W. H. Wheeler, representative of the San Francisco Traffic association.

TAXI SERVICE IS PLANNED FOR THE AIR

PARIS IS ONCE MORE TO THE FRONT WITH AIRSHIP SERVICE.

(Special by Wireless.)
*Paris, Feb. 28.—A unique company has been recently inaugurated in this city that plans the adoption of a taxi-aeroplane service. The machines are to be equipped with "meters" that are guaranteed to correctly measure the distance traversed by aerial passengers. It is presumed that the new innovation will be gladly hailed by the "midnight sons."

DETECTIVES AFTER ARNOLD WEHFELD

(Special by Wireless.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—Police detectives will leave this morning for Winnipeg, Canada, to relieve the Canadian authorities of the custody of Aaron Wehfeld and Vigil St. Croix and bring them to this city to face trial on an indictment charging embezzlement.

A. M. NYE AND FAMILY LEAVE FOR DES MOINES

Attorney A. M. Nye, accompanied by his wife and child, departed Sunday for Des Moines, Iowa, where the family will in future make its home. The funeral of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nye, who died in Tonopah about ten days ago, following a lingering illness, will take place upon the arrival of the family in Des Moines. The remains were shipped by express to the eastern city.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to thank our many friends for their sympathy and aid during our hour of misfortune in the loss of our beloved son-in-law, George Dondero.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK HERMLE.
For neat commercial printing try the Bonanza job office.

CHAS. D. HILLIS OF DOBBS FERRY SUCCEEDS NORTON

(Special by Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Chas. D. Hillis of Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., and said to be one of the foremost "boosters" for Canadian reciprocity in New York state, has been appointed to the position of secretary to the president, succeeding Charles B. Norton.

The position is probably the most important secretarial appointment in this country. To the secretary of the president comes all of the letters from "cranks" and malecontents intended for the eye of the chief executive, the begging letters, suggestions as to how to run the country properly, and the million and one things which go to make the life of the official miserable.

In addition to this the secretary is the buffer between importunate visitors and his chief, and an enormous fund of diplomacy is necessary to prevent friction.

George B. Cortelyou and many other of the presidential secretaries have assumed important government offices following successful administration of the duties of the position, until the work is now conceded to be nothing but a stepping stone to real political preferment.

BLAZE CAUSES \$100,000 DAMAGE NEAR BAY CITY

SAN FRANCISCO SUBURB SCENE OF FIRE IN HOME OF A MILLIONAIRE.

(Special by Wireless.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—The most destructive fire which ever visited a San Francisco suburb occurred Sunday when the home of S. E. Slade, one of the most prominent lumbermen of the west, was destroyed by flames.

The origin of the fire is unknown but before the general fire department could be hurried into service, the building was doomed. The total loss is set at more than \$150,000, partially covered by insurance.

LOST CERTIFICATES ORDERED RESTORED

JAMES M. HENEY OF TONOPAH WINS ORDER AGAINST THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—Two \$1000 bonds of the Pacific Electric Railway company, which were buried and lost by James M. Heney of Tonopah, were ordered restored to Heney yesterday by Judge Seawell.

Heney said he lived in a cabin in Tonopah and buried the bonds in a tin can for safekeeping in 1904. The following year he dug in search of them and discovered they had been removed.

He recently filed a suit against the Pacific Electric for the restoration of the bonds.

Judge Seawell ruled that Heney must indemnify the company for loss in case the two original bonds appeared.

RAILROADS BEGIN TO RETRENCH EXPENSES

BUTTE, Mont., Feb. 28.—Retrenchment has begun on the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railroad company. Employees along the line in Montana to the number of nearly 100 have been laid off.

MISSING LAUNCH WAS RUN DOWN BY LARGE STEAMER

(Special by Wireless.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 28.—The gasoline launch John A. Gwynne, owned by Harry Johnson, which has been missing since early Saturday morning, was reported yesterday as run down and sunk by the schooner Comet at 1 o'clock Saturday morning in the bay, near the transport ship Ohio. Elmer Wagner, the engineer, and Ah Chung, a Chinese laborer went down with the launch. The accident has not been explained satisfactorily to the authorities by the owner. A hard gale was blowing at the time and it is supposed that the engine of the launch gave out and it was unable to keep out of the path of the schooner. Several vessels were near and saw the crew sink beneath the waves.

PEOPLE SEE SNOW FOR FIRST TIME IN LIVES

(Special by Wireless.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—Snow falls in the city, and the hills are mantled for the first time in eight years. Heavy snow falls have

taken place across the bay. Yesterday the thousands who visited the park began snowballing. Many saw this spectacle for the first time in their life.

OLD TIME HOTEL MAN OF NEW YORK IS DEAD

(Special by Wireless.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—John Taylor, a member of a family known for several generations in the hotel business in New York, died of suffocation at the Hotel Martin on Saturday afternoon. On Wednesday he fell a victim of tonsillitis. Dr. Dowd, his physician, foresaw how close to death he was and resorted to an emergency operation, which did not avail. Using his pen-knife he made an incision in the windpipe and in this inserted part of a rubber tube he found in the room, but his aid had been summoned too late.

JEWELRY THIEF THOUGHT TO BE ABOARD STEAMER

(Special by Wireless.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—As the Hamburg liner Amerika reached the quarantine station this morning a wireless message was flashed to the Hoboken police headquarters asking that detectives meet the vessel to investigate the theft of jewelry worth nine hundred and thirty thousand dollars, the property of Mrs. Marshall Drummond, widow of Marshall Field, Jr., of Chicago.

BABY JOSEPHINE IS THE BIG HIT AT THE BUTLER

CHILD WONDER PROVES STRONG ATTRACTION AT LOCAL PLAYHOUSE.

The program of the Butler theater for today consists of the following: "A Robust Patient," a Selig comedy which is a scream from start to finish. "Trilled by An Indian" is a Western drama, representing a child stolen by two discharged cowboys, trailed by an Indian, who succeeds in capturing them both. "Uncle's Birthday Gift" is the representation of an eccentric old uncle who sends his niece a birthday gift of a plant in which is concealed a valuable necklace. The messenger loses the plant, and before he finds it, the uncle's arrival is announced. Ultimately the difficulty is settled and the niece gets her necklace. It is a very interesting story and is full of humorous situations.

"Baby" Josephine made her first appearance last evening and she is by far the cleverest juvenile performer we have had the pleasure of witnessing. She was forced to respond to several encores last evening and undoubtedly she will prove to be the biggest drawing card the Butler has had in some time. She will remain at the popular little playhouse all this week.

All kinds of ruling and binding at the Bonanza.